

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*EDWARD E. McNALLY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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FAIRFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 23, 2006, **BRENT J. POWELL**, age 32, of Fairfield, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **POWELL** was sentenced to 211 months imprisonment, fined \$750, and was placed on 5 years supervised release.

POWELL had previously pleaded guilty to a six count federal Indictment, charging him with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine; two counts of possession of chemicals and other materials used in the production of methamphetamine; and single counts of possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.